

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A care product for cut flowers comprising a polymer matrix which comprises a charged and crosslinked carbohydrate, wherein the matrix forms a gel in the presence of water, which gel immobilizes bacteria on the basis of electrostatic interactions between the gel and the bacteria.
2. (Original) A product according to claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate is a positively charged and crosslinked carbohydrate.
3. (Currently Amended) A product according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the carbohydrate and the gel to be formed are decomposable by microorganisms.
4. (Original) A product according to claim 3, wherein the carbohydrate is a carbohydrate from DP50.
5. (Currently Amended) A product according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1[-4], wherein the carbohydrate comprises glucose, fructose, sucrose, maltose, arabinose, mannose, galactose, lactose or oligomers and polymers of these sugars, dextrins, agarose, amylose, amylopectine or gum.

6. (Currently Amended) A product according to ~~any one of claims~~claim 1-5, wherein the matrix further comprises one active substance, and wherein the gel, when it is being decomposed by the microorganisms, releases the active substance to the environment.
7. (Original) A product according to claim 6, comprising at least two active substances.
8. (Original) A product according to claim 7, comprising at least one antimicrobial substance and at least one growth promoter.
9. (Currently Amended) A product according to ~~any one of claims~~claim 1-8, which, in the presence of water, forms a transparent gel.
10. (Currently Amended) A product according to ~~any one of claims~~claim 6-9, wherein the antimicrobial substance has the qualification "natural and/or foodgrade".
11. (Currently Amended) A product according to ~~any one of claims~~claim 6-10, wherein the extent of release of the antimicrobial substance to the environment is related to the extent to which the gel formed in the presence of water is decomposed by the microorganisms present in the environment.

12. (Currently Amended) A product according to ~~any one of claims~~claim 6-11, wherein the ratio between the amounts of polymer (A) and active substance (B) is 0.005-6.0 (A/B).

13. (Currently Amended) A product according to ~~any one of claims~~claim 6-12, wherein the gel formed in the presence of water releases the active substance to the environment at a rate of 1-100 micromoles/day.

14. (Currently Amended) A gel obtained by contacting the care product for cut flowers according to ~~any one of claims~~claim 1-13 with a limited amount of water.

15. (Original) A gel according to claim 14, wherein the ratio between the amounts of matrix (A) and water (B) is 0.001-3 (A/B).

16. (Currently Amended) An envelope containing a particular amount of the care product for cut flowers or gel according to ~~any one of claims~~claim 1-15.

17. (Currently Amended) Use of the care product or gel according to ~~any one of claims~~claim 1-16 for extending the vase life of cut flowers.